

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-16 (cancelled).

17. (New) A method for staining cells in the human or animal body, the method comprising applying to the cells in the body a physiologically compatible aqueous solution of a dye which does not represent a vital dye and is biocompatible.

18. (New) A method according to Claim 17, which is for coloring, delimiting or separating membranes.

19. (New) A method according to Claim 18, which is for coloring, delimiting or separating membranes in the eye.

20. (New) A method according to Claim 18, which is for coloring, delimiting or separating membranes which are to be removed from an organ of the body,

21. (New) A method according to Claim 20, wherein the organ is the eye.

22. (New) A method according to Claim 16, which is for coloring the lens capsule of the eye.

23. (New) A method according to Claim 16, which is for coloring the lens anterior capsule in a cataract operation on the eye.

24. (New) A method according to Claim 16, which is for coloring membranes which have occurred due to disease in or at an organ of the body.
25. (New) A method according to Claim 24, wherein the organ is the retina of the eye.
26. (New) A method according to Claim 25, which is for coloring epiretinal membranes.
27. (New) A method according to Claim 26, which is for coloring a viscoelastic solution used in surgery.
28. (New) A method according to Claim 27, wherein the surgery is an ophthalmologic surgery.
29. (New) A method according to Claim 16, wherein the dye is dissolved in a neutral or weakly acid or weakly alkaline buffer.
30. (New) A method according to Claim 29, wherein the dye is dissolved in a buffer with a pH value of between about 6.8 and 7.8.
31. (New) A method according to Claim 30, wherein a phosphate, hydrogen carbonate or citrate buffer is used.
32. (New) A method according to Claim 16, wherein the dye is a triphenylmethane dye.
33. (New) A method according to Claim 32, wherein the concentration of the dye in the buffer solution is between about 0.3 and 2.5 g/l.

34. (New) A method according to Claim 33, wherein the concentration of the dye is about 1.2 g/l.
35. (New) A method according to Claim 32, wherein the dye is patent blue V.
36. (New) A method according to Claim 32, wherein the dye is brilliant blue R.
37. (New) A physiologically compatible aqueous dye solution for coloring cells in the human or animal body, the dye solution comprising at least one dye which does not represent a vital dye and is biocompatible.
38. (New) The dye solution of Claim 37, wherein the dye is patent blue V or brilliant blue R.